

UNITED STATES NAVY

SEABEE

SUMMER 2010

SEABEE LIFE IN AFGHANISTAN

BOOTS ON THE GROUND AT WORK IN THE DESERT

ALSO INSIDE:

**Seabees Play Key Role in
Maritime Civil Affairs Teams**

Finding Gilbert:

A Seabee Daughter's
Mission to Find the Past

**Shields, Stethem, Combs
and Battle "E" Awards**

WE BUILD ★ WE FIGHT



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"Can Do" is the focus of each and every day in the desert.



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Boots and letters from home under a Seabee's bed at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 20.

Photo by MC2 Ace Rheau

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FINAL WORD

RDML Scott Weikert, CEC, USNR, First Naval Construction Division, relates how being a reservist has changed from "weekend warrior" to "complete patriot."



**Look for the
Challenge Coin
award in this issue!**

CAN DO!





CE3 Stanley Sejalbo, NMCB 5, installs receptacle boxes on the project site at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 25. The Seabees of NMCB 5 deployed to Afghanistan to execute general engineering, infrastructure construction and project management in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Photo by MC2 Ace Rheume

No one has ever accomplished anything substantial alone. America's military is certainly no different. Winning wars can mean occupying land, swaying hearts and minds, sustaining overwhelming force, and a multitude of other things Hollywood never glamorized.

The supporting forces that enable Marines, Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers often get overlooked.

Seabees are the military's CAN DO handy-men – building, moving, drilling and organizing just about anything theater commanders need to defeat, sway, convince or subdue their foes that our cause is just and their resistance is useless. Barracks, check points, cover and concealment, roads, airstrips, mess halls (ask the Army), latrines, defensive positions, water wells, and things no one knows what to call but always need – who builds it for them? We do. Often with less than enough supplies, manpower and time. Still we get it done serving as a virtual Swiss Army knife of ingenuity for area commanders who need to fortify, remove, enforce or build their way to victory.

The Summer 2010 issue of *Seabee* Magazine covers a vast array of Seabee skills, missions and capabilities. But more than anything it showcases how capable we are in enabling today's warfighter.

We also take a closer look at Seabees in combat through the eyes of NMCB 5 Seabees. What is it like to live and work in



MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG)
James G. Pinsky

a place like Afghanistan? What do Seabees do and how do they cope when the hammering stops?

Not all wars are fought with bullets. In South and Central America, Seabees from NMCB 25 are providing direct support to the people of Guatemala, Guantanamo Bay, the Dominican Republic and neighboring countries. Seabee ingenuity and spirit is helping citizens in those countries accomplish their goals of new schools, fresh water and better military training.

Our Final Word comes from RDML Scott Weikert who helps set the record straight on what today's Reserve Seabee does.

Also in this issue we address unique duty station opportunities at Camp David, provide your family with support through a new Navy program in *Home Front* and introduce the new Chief of Civil Engineers.

Today's Seabee is modern, educated and passionate. We have to be; too many people depend on us. CAN DO!

Sincerely,

MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG) James G. Pinsky
Editor-in-Chief, *Seabee* Magazine



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EDITORIAL

SEABEE Magazine is scheduled quarterly by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Public Affairs Office from the historic Washington Navy Yard, "the Quarterdeck of the Navy." Our readership consists of Active and Reserve Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers and their families, as well as veterans, retirees and the general public. Letters and electronic mail are welcome on all Seabee-related topics and, if published, are subject to editing for length and clarity. Written and photographic submissions that show Active and Reserve Seabees are strongly encouraged. We prefer to receive all written and photographic submissions by e-mail to seabemagazine@navy.mil. Images should include captions and be unmodified; digital files should measure at least 300dpi at 5x7 inches. All submissions must include the author's full name, rank/rate, duty contact telephone number(s) and e-mail address. Submissions by regular postal mail are strongly discouraged due to security precautions that may damage fragile contents. If necessary, send all postal mail to:

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A person is standing in a vast, hazy desert landscape, likely during a sandstorm. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The background is a mix of light and dark sand, creating a textured, atmospheric effect. The overall tone is warm and somewhat somber due to the weather conditions.

• SEABEE LIFE •

in **Afghanistan**

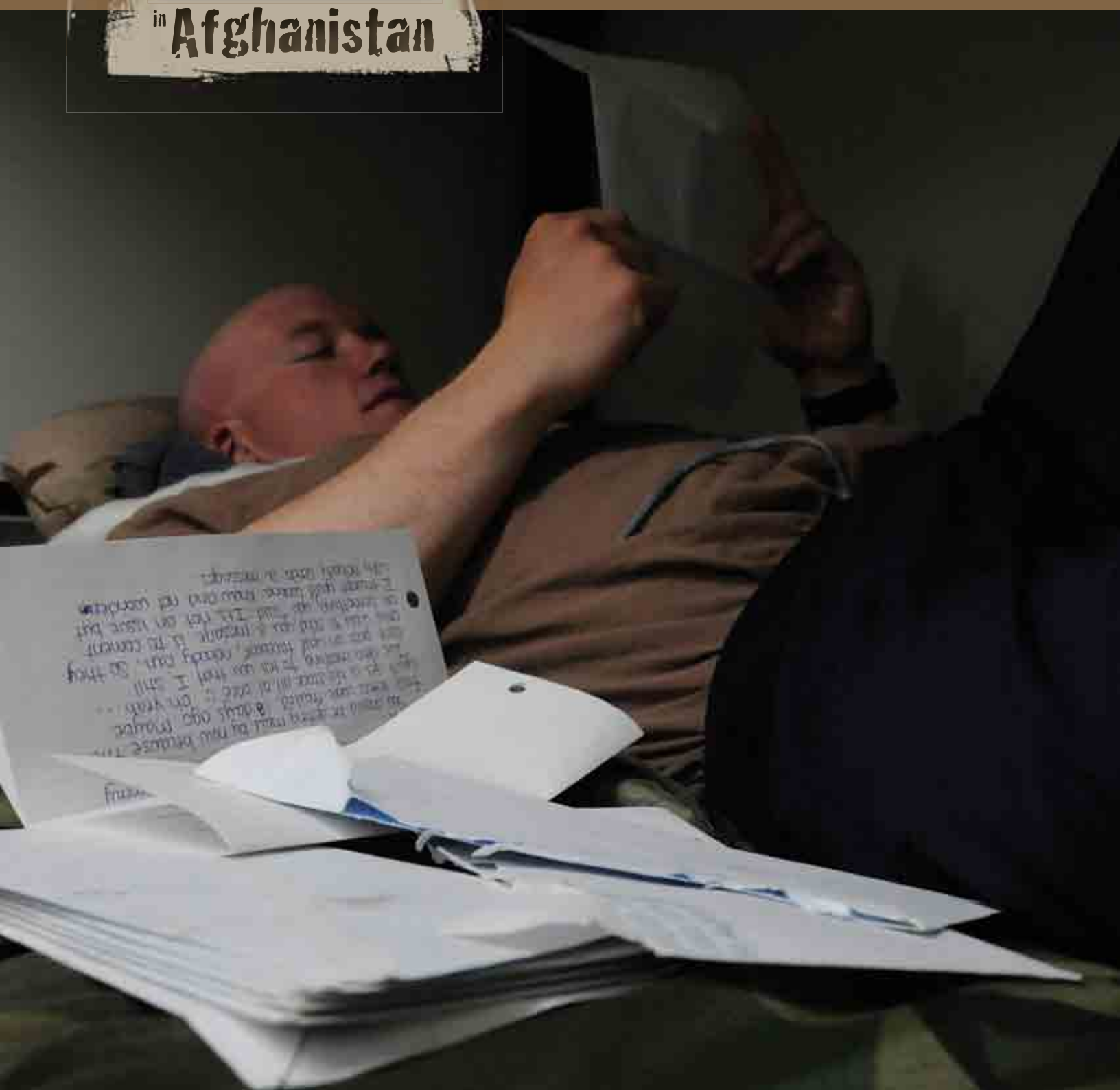
Imagine scorching heat, long working hours and an occasional sandstorm. These are just a few of the conditions that Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 are encountering. Yet, these conditions are not unfamiliar to “The Professionals” of NMCB 5 who are currently on their second deployment to Afghanistan.

A glimpse of life in the desert...

EOC Michelle Mathis, NMCB 5, guides vehicles during a sandstorm to be staged on a Mabey-Johnson Bridge project in Marjah, Afghanistan, June 24.
Photo by MC2 Ace Rheaume. Photo illustration

• SEABEE LIFE •

in Afghanistan



BU2(SCW) Eric Clark, NMCB 5, reads letters from his wife after work at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 20.

Photos by MC2 Ace Rheume

NMCB 5 is at “Home” in the Desert

By MC2 Ace Rheume, NMCB 5 Public Affairs

At the beginning of 2009, “The Professionals” were scheduled for a six-month deployment to Rota, Spain. However, when President Barack Obama announced a troop surge to Afghanistan, NMCB 5 became the first full construction battalion in the Naval Construction Force (NCF) to deploy in March.

Living conditions weren’t great. The main body element of the battalion was based in Camp Leatherneck. “Our offices were in tents, our berthing was in tents and the food sucked,” said Chief Boatswain’s Mate Rafael Escoto, NMCB 5. Seabees lived in large tents, housing 20 or more persons. Air conditioning was available, but rarely reliable. The air conditioning units constantly required maintenance and failed frequently.

NMCB 5’s main body offices operated out of Camp Natasha, a small camp located on Leatherneck. Offices were similar to the living conditions, with tents housing each construction company space.

“The Professionals” were deployed for six months until June when the main body of the battalion switched to night operations. Seabees played a key role in improving facilities and ultimately the quality of life for thousands of service members stationed throughout numerous camps and Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in Afghanistan.

“I like deployments. I like to get out there and do hands-on work. That’s the kind of guy I am,” said Builder 3rd Class Andrew Snyder. “If I didn’t join the military I would have been a third-generation carpenter. I’m glad that I can see [these projects] go up – it’s always something I can look back on.”

NMCB 5 returned in August 2009 with hopes of a full year in their homeport of Port Hueneme, Calif., as they were not scheduled to deploy to Rota, Spain until August 2010.

However, when news came of another Afghanistan deployment, it resulted in a shortened homeport of four months. Each Seabee was tasked with either pre-deployment, training or personnel requirements. Balancing these requirements and time with family and friends became challenging but NMCB 5 Seabees overcame every obstacle and deployed as tasked in March 2010.

Many Seabees are grateful that living and working conditions have improved at Camp Leatherneck. “We went from 25-man

tents to a 4-man, air-conditioned POD – it’s much better,” said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class (SCW) Joseph Stevens, NMCB 5. A “POD” is a Relocatable Building (RLB), but more affectionately known as a POD for what they resemble back home – a temporary storage unit.

Camp Natasha has been replaced by Camp Krutke as the new NMCB 5 home at Camp Leatherneck. Tents have been replaced by Southwest Asia (SWA) Huts, and air conditioning is more reliable in PODs and offices.

Many Seabees on deployment count the days until they return home. Mail helps ease deployment and lets the Seabees know that people back home care about them.

“Whenever I get mail I’m excited,” said Yeoman 3rd Class (SCW) James Wainio, NMCB 5, who receives mail and care packages from his wife. “It makes me feel appreciated for what I do out here.”

“Ever since my wife and I have been married, [when I’m away at] field exercises or deployments, she will write me a letter

every single day,” said Builder 2nd Class (SCW) Eric Clark, NMCB 5. “She will number them every day that I’m gone. I’ve got a letter in my pocket right now that I just got from her – its number 21,” BU2 Clark said. “She just writes them every day, every night when she’s thinking about me.”

Many Seabees are so exhausted from work they decide to relax as soon as they return to their POD.

“I haven’t even watched a movie since I’ve been out here,” Clark said. “If I have done everything I’ve wanted to do for the day, I just take the sleep that I can get.”

The NMCB 5 motto includes traits such as strength, honor, attitude, leadership and teamwork. The Professionals incorporate this vision to complete everyday tasks. Although being deployed in a contingency environment can often be challenging, every Seabee of NMCB 5 should know that they are essential to the mission and their hard work does not go unrecognized. As Petty Officer 3rd Class Snyder said, “We can look back and say, ‘Yeah! We built that.’”

But in the bigger picture, the Seabees of NMCB 5 can feel proud to know they have helped to “rebuild” hope in Afghanistan.

“Ever since my wife and I have been married, [when I’m away at] field exercises or deployments, she will write me a letter every single day. She will number them every day that I’m gone. I’ve got a letter in my pocket right now...it’s number 21.”

BU2(SCW) Eric Clark, NMCB 5



For outstanding contribution to the Summer issue, we present the Seabee Magazine Challenge Coin to **MC2 Ace Rheume, NMCB 5 Public Affairs**. MC2 Rheume provided comprehensive, in-depth coverage of his battalion’s wide-ranging work to support the mission of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. For this issue alone, he crafted articles on living a Seabee life in the desert, fighting a fire at Camp Krutke, and building a bridge with Soldiers and Marines. MC2 Rheume even contributed great photos for our cover feature. Can Do!



UT1(SCW) Nicholas Morgan, NMCB 5, oversees a Camp Bastion crew fight a fire that quickly spread over a supply area at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, May 17. Crews from both Camp Leatherneck and Camp Bastion worked overnight to suppress the blaze.

Photo by MC2 Ace Rheaume

NMCB 5 in Damage Control Mode - Seabee-Style

By MC2 Ace Rheume and ENS Adrienne Rolle, NMCB 5 Public Affairs

Smoke started to fill the air and flames erupted one block away from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5's Camp Krutke compound, May 17. A supply yard at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, unexpectedly burst into flames and destroyed everything in its path. As the wind intensified, the fire grew larger with every minute. Crews from both Leatherneck and Camp Bastion worked together to suppress the flames that lasted into the next morning.

The fire came as a complete surprise. NMCB 5 'Bees were enjoying a scheduled day off from their six-day work week before the chaos ensued.

"It was an intense fire," said Utilitiesman 1st Class (SCW) Nicholas Morgan. To fight a fire with limited resources is a challenge in itself, but the situation became more difficult when a wall of sand descended upon Camp Leatherneck. It was the ultimate of challenges: how can a unit move critical equipment to help fight a fire when visibility is at its worst? With the sandstorm came stronger winds. Everyone worried that it would be impossible to prevent the fire from reaching the fuel farm, located just across the road from the supply yard already engulfed in flames.

The scene of the fire could be described as bright and extremely busy to say the least. UT1 Morgan recalls, "When the wind would change, you could feel the heat. It felt like gas being thrown directly into the fire."

NMCB 5's Alfa Company played an extremely important role to help keep the fire contained. Comprised of mainly equipment operators and construction mechanics, the 'Bees staged equipment, supplied water trucks, operated bulldozers and made sure proper resources were used effectively to fight the flames.

"You wouldn't expect people to be willing to hop into a bulldozer with a smile on their face and plow into a fire. But our guys did it and that was truly amazing."

LTJG Darren Jacques, Commander, Alfa Company

"It was hectic at first, as emergency situations always tend to be. However, it was really amazing to see how quickly we fell into a battle rhythm. We became very effective once our roles were clearly laid out and everyone knew exactly what their job was," recalls LTJG Darren Jacques, commander, Alfa Company.

Alfa Company Seabees were recalled immediately after the fire started. They operated heavy equipment such as bulldozers for more than nine hours and rapidly coordinated operations to prevent the spread of the flames.

"I couldn't have asked our Alfa personnel to do a better job," LTJG Jacques said. "They stuck to the task at hand and we got the job done."

Though the fire raged through the night and into the early morning hours, operations slowly drew to a close. Marines, Seabees, British military and contractors all worked together to contain the fire, but eventually everyone returned to their respective camps. The frenzied chain of events was the root cause of exhaustion across the board. The shock and devastation of such a fire left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

"But it is the attitude of the outstanding troops that leaves a greater impression," said Jacques. "You wouldn't expect people to be willing to hop into a bulldozer with a smile on their face and plow into a fire. But our guys did it and that was truly amazing."

When dawn broke, rain started to fall. The scene at the supply yard took on a post-apocalyptic level of devastation. Tires were still on fire, storage containers were charred through, and there was twisted metal and rubbish strewn throughout the area. A berm had been pushed around the lot, and construction equipment was still in place as if the drivers had suddenly stopped work from pure exhaustion. A few Marines sat in silence, posted as guards on the site; they ensured no one came near the smoldering pile of ash that remained of the supply yard.

While the extent of damage was uncertain, this undoubtedly served as an eye-opening experience to all commands. The dry environment, limited water supply and proximity of lots create a nightmarish threat of fire damage. While fire plans exist on camp, the extent of this destruction could not have been readily avoided.

Sailors in the U.S. Navy are taught damage control skills training in boot camp. They learn the basic types of fires and how to control them. NMCB 5 Seabees, with the help of other commands, used these skills – as well as solid teamwork – to fight and extinguish the blaze.

NMCB 5 Seabees, Marines and Soldiers Launch Mabey-Johnson Bridge

By MC2 Ace Rheaume, NMCB 5 Public Affairs

For five days in the hot summer sun, Seabees attached to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 5 worked alongside Marines and Soldiers to place a Mabey-Johnson Bridge in Marjah, Afghanistan. The mission was dangerous, with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and immediate enemy threat located near the area of operation.

NMCB 5 Seabees and Marines attached to the 9th Engineer Support Battalion (ESB) were the first to arrive. Marines provided security for the convoy traveling from Camp Leatherneck to the bridge site. Once both were in Marjah, the Marines set up security around the construction area and the Seabees got to work.

Five's heavy equipment operators worked effortlessly to complete the mission.

"The Seabees provided horizontal construction capability and Civil Engineer Support Equipment [CESE] to the bridge mission," said Equipment Operator 1st Class (SCW) Thomas Colesanti, an Alfa Company, NMCB 5. "We cleared the way for the Army engineers to come in, assemble and launch the bridge."

The bridge will allow larger military vehicles to convoy along the main supply route for U.S. and coalition forces in Marjah.

"It helps future Marines get through the area easier," said Corporal Thomas Owens, 9th ESB. "The other bridges in the area are too small for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected [MRAP] vehicles."

Safety was the number one priority for the Seabees, who wore modular tactical vest (MTV) body armor and Kevlar. Along with this additional weight and weapons, hydration was essential. Heat rose to above 100 degrees during the daylight hours.

During the Vietnam War, Seabees often built and fought alongside Marines and Soldiers in areas where enemy attacks frequently occurred. This mission was no different...

During the Vietnam War, Seabees often built and fought alongside Marines and Soldiers in areas where enemy attacks frequently occurred. This mission was no different; Marjah is a dangerous

area of operations and all services played a major role in ensuring the safety of service members involved.

For many, this was the first time they participated in a joint operation. "It is always a privilege to be part of a joint operation. But at the same time there are always initial growing pains that occur when the crews first interact," said EO1 Colesanti. "During this particular trip, the Marines and Seabees did a fine job working side by side to complete the earthwork mission."

The service members were able to interact with Afghan local nationals for the first time. "It's crazy how people live around here," said Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Vince Moore. "You can tell that to all of your buddies back home, but unless you see it firsthand you don't know."

One Seabee brought crayons, notebooks and other supplies to help Afghanistan children in the area.

"Education is one of the big parts of my life. My parents really blessed me with a good private education and I wanted to help pass along the value that just knowing a little bit can get you a long way," said Construction Mechanic 2nd Class (SCW) Evan Zumdick. "I gave coloring books and crayons. The smiles on the kids' faces are priceless. I don't really know how to explain it, it's like seeing a kid get a Christmas gift for the very first time."

Reconstruction efforts have given new hope to the city of Marjah, and have strengthened the perception of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan among the Afghani people.



EOCN Julie Watkins, NMCB 5, drives an excavator over a newly finished Mabey-Johnson Bridge in Marjah, Afghanistan, June 28.

Photo by MC2 Ace Rheume



NMCB 5 at the End of the Day...



(Above) CM3(SCW) Preston Hein, NMCB 5, plays a ukulele during break time at Camp Leatherneck.



(Left) Seabees attached to NMCB 5 play softball at Camp Leatherneck.

Photos by MC2 Ace Rheume



CM2 Evan Zumdick, NMCB 5, gives Afghan children pencils and notebooks in Marjah, Afghanistan, earlier this year.



Seabees Play Vital Role in Success of Globally Deployed Maritime Civil Affairs Teams

By Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command – Public Affairs

(Above) Sailors with Maritime Civil Affairs Team (MCAT) 203 meet with local officials during a site survey at a school in Thies, Senegal. Seabees, such as BUC Jody L. Binette (shaking hands with official), contribute to the MCAT mission with their unique skill sets.

*Photo by
MC2 Mathew
Diendorf*

Each day across a broad spectrum of military operations, Seabees are deployed worldwide on missions to build global partnerships and foster peace and mutual security among partner nations. Whether helping a local community open a water well in the Horn of Africa, vaccinating children from disease in a remote village of Southeast Asia or assessing port damage in earthquake-ravaged Haiti, Seabees serving on Maritime Civil Affairs Teams (MCATs) and Security Force Assistance-Mobile Training Teams (SFA-MTTs) are making critical contributions in support of maritime security. More importantly, the actions of these highly skilled Seabee maritime civil affairs specialists are having a lasting impact on the lives of people in these regions.

OPERATIONS SNAPSHOT

The primary purpose of the MCAT is to conduct assessments of the civil environment and provide the supported commander with a common operating picture of the civil context in which he will conduct the mission. In a Global Fleet Station mission, such as Pacific Partnership, Continuing Promise or Africa Partnership Station, these assessments help inform the commander of what is needed or desired by the host nation. This may include medical treatment, infrastructure improvements or projects related to maritime security. By interfacing with non-Department of Defense (DoD) agencies, regionally focused MCATs help enhance the effects of any one project while ensuring mutual objectives are met with partner nations.

(Continued)

"It's a unique mission outside the normal Seabee career path. But just like the feeling of satisfaction we get when we complete a Seabee project, we derive a similar sense of accomplishment seeing the effect and lasting impression that a civil affairs mission leaves on a local populace."

Builder 1st Class Terry King, deployed with an MCAT to both CJTF-HOA and JSOTF-Philippines

CM1 Robert Taylor, an Africa Partnership Station (APS) East instructor, teaches a small boat maintenance course to Tanzanian maritime students in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, earlier this year.



THE BEGINNING

In 2006 the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard adopted “A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower.” This new maritime strategy elevated the importance of working with international partners as the basis for global maritime security. Although forces could be surged when necessary to respond to crises, the three sea services recognized that trust and cooperation could not. Therefore, relationships with nations would have to be built over time, based on mutual understanding and respect.

The new strategy raised the deterrence of war to a level equal to the conduct of war. As a result of the shift in strategic thinking, U.S. naval forces were tasked worldwide with missions to include building confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts.

Shortly after, the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) was established to support these objectives. The need for a maritime civil affairs presence, as an integral part of that effort, became increasingly evident. The Maritime Civil Affairs Group (MCAG) was created to focus on this mission. In October 2009, MCAG, Security Force Assistance (SFA) and the Expeditionary Training Command (ETC) were merged to create the Maritime Civil Affairs and Security Training Command (MCAST).

MANY [HARD]HATS

The MCAST mans, trains, equips and deploys Sailors to facilitate and enable a Navy component or joint task force commander to establish and enhance relations between military forces, governmental and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and the civilian populace. Accomplished in a collaborative manner across the full spectrum of operations in the maritime environment, MCAST executes civilian-to-military operations and military-to-military training as directed, in support of security cooperation and security assistance requirements.

While other armed services have civil affairs components, the “reach-back” functional specialists at MCAST consist of subject matter experts with professional training and experience specifically tailored for the maritime environment. This expertise includes port operations, harbor and channel maintenance construction, marine and fisheries resources, international law, and public health.

In addition, MCAST enhances its partner-nation capability by deploying fully qualified individuals and MCATs trained to support civilian-to-military operations. Wherever the Navy needs to engage and establish rapport with international partners, you will usually find an MCAT there to lead the effort. And wherever you find an MCAT, you will find a Seabee due to specialized combat and construction skills.

MCAT SCOPE

Each MCAT is comprised of five personnel: officer-in-charge (OIC) corpsman, constructionman, coxswain and mass communications specialist. The commander and the team’s chief petty officer are selected from the surface warfare, aviation, Civil Engineer Corps and/or the public affairs community.

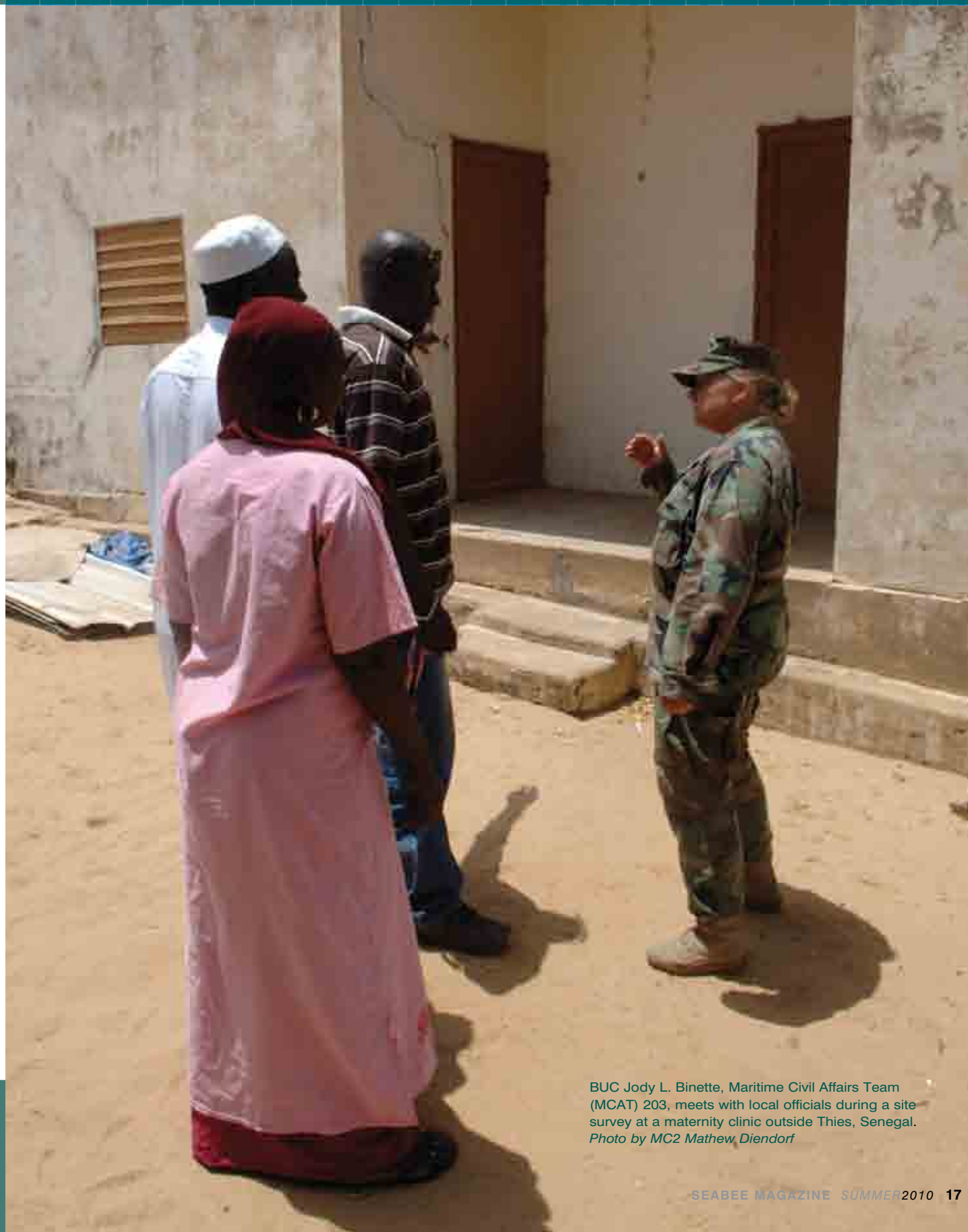
MCATs are deployed globally on a recurring basis to support a broad spectrum of missions that support the maritime strategy and the Navy’s core competencies of humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and maritime security. These missions have included Haiti relief efforts, CJTF-HOA Operations, Africa Partnership Station, Continuing Promise, Southern Promise and Pacific Partnership.

In order to maximize its effectiveness, each deployed MCAT is regionally focused and trained with the necessary language, regional awareness and cultural sensitivities. The teams are responsible for streamlining and coordinating efforts of the U.S. Departments of Defense and State, and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The MCATs work closely with local government officials and NGOs, and help community leaders identify sustainable solutions that generate economic development.

READINESS

Seabees selected for duty with an MCAT typically undergo six weeks of rigorous training. The Maritime Civil Affairs Generalist Course consists of three, two-week phases: Basic Individual Training, Intermediate Individual Training and the Operational Planning Course (OPC). These courses, based on the U.S. Army Civil Affairs curriculum, but tailored to support the Maritime Environment and MCAs core competencies, are a necessary step to obtaining the Navy’s 90CA-Maritime Civil Affairs NEC and serving on an MCAT. A team of civil affairs experts with many years of experience at all levels of civil affairs, instructs all three phases emphasizing the needed skills that ensure an MCAT’s success in supporting an operational commander’s objectives. All three phases employ MCAT guest speakers to provide perspective between the lesson and the utilization of skills in current missions.

MCATs are deployed globally on a recurring basis to support a broad spectrum of missions that support the maritime strategy and the Navy's core competencies of humanitarian assistance/disaster relief and maritime security.



BUC Jody L. Binette, Maritime Civil Affairs Team (MCAT) 203, meets with local officials during a site survey at a maternity clinic outside Thies, Senegal.
Photo by MC2 Mathew Diendorf

SNAPSHOT OF A BATTALION DEPLOYMENT

BURKINA FASO

Burkina Det Leads "Flintlock"

By BU3 William Svoboda, NMCB 7

A detachment from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 7 completed a two-and-a-half month assignment in support of Exercise Flintlock 10 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in May. Exercise Flintlock 10 is designed to develop military interoperability as a cornerstone for regional security and stability within the region.

The main project consisted of upgrading an existing Joint Command Center for the upcoming exercise. NMCB 7's Burkina Det, led by Construction Electrician (SCW) 3rd Class Jason Dingle, installed 127 interior and exterior fluorescent lights, 65 ceiling fans, 63 receptacles, 23 air conditioners and five electrical panels; ran 3,500 meters of electrical cable and 300 meters of fiber optic cable; and connected power to four buildings on site.

"From this experience I expected to gain more hands-on knowledge about basic construction work on the job site - I gained that and much more," said Builder Constructionman Tristan Chattic. "I gained great friendships and unforgettable bonds with not only the Burkina Army, but with the local civilians as well."

ROTA, SPAIN

Advance Party Paves Way on Deployment



Seabees assigned to NMCB 7 use a screed board to smooth and remove excess concrete at a sidewalk project at Naval Station Rota, Spain, May 14.

Photo by MCC Yan Kennon



GULFPORT, MS
HOMEPORT



HAITI
OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE



Detachment Liberia Officer-in-Charge LT Aaron Allison (center, right), NMCB 7, receives an Armed Forces of Liberia Commendation certificate from Lt. Col. Daniel Moore, commanding officer, Armed Forces of Liberia's 23rd Infantry Regiment, in appreciation for construction improvements at Camp Edward Binyah Kesselly, May 10.

MONROVIA, LIBERIA

NMCB 7 Det Thanked by Liberian Army

By SWCA Stella Trusty, NMCB 7

NMCB 7 Detachment Liberia received a commendation certificate from Lt. Col. Daniel Moore, commanding officer, Armed Forces of Liberia's (AFL's) 23rd Infantry Regiment, for camp construction improvements, May 10.

The Seabee detachment arrived in Liberia Feb. 15 to construct two AFRICOM counter-narcotics terrorism projects and conduct discretionary projects in support of the AFL Coast Guard, as well as AFL Soldiers and engineers at Camp Edward Binyah Kesselly (EBK) Military Barracks.

Det Liberia cleared and made significant improvements on an existing 200 x 75-meter small arms range for AFL Soldiers. Seabees also created a one-acre national cemetery on the EBK compound, dedicated to the Armed Services of Liberia.

"I cannot thank the Seabees enough," said Lt. Col. Moore. "Your hard work and skill has blessed this Army, increasing pride and ownership in our installation and military tradition."

NMCB 7



BU3 Justin O'Donnell, NMCB 7, guides E03 Zachary Bunter as he operates a Caterpillar 924G Bucket Loader to stage timber for wall forms in Ventspils, Latvia, in support of Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2010.

Photo by Latvia Minister of Defense Public Affairs

LATVIA

Detail Latvia Readies Site for BALTOPS 2010

By LTJG Liwei Chen, NMCB 7

NMCB 7's Detail Latvia completed construction tasking in late May in preparation for Baltic Operations (BALTOPS) 2010, an annual exercise that promotes mutual understanding of maritime interoperability between U.S. Navy, NATO and non-NATO participants. The detail prepared a five-acre base camp site for a Marine Landing Group and constructed a reinforced concrete pad for a maritime pre-positioned ship offload of equipment for the exercise.

Often working day and night in freezing temperatures, snow and rain, the detachment poured more than 250 cubic yards of concrete within a three-week timeframe and placed 7,500 cubic yards of backfill in just under a month.

"Everything is in place for the Marines' arrival to participate in the upcoming exercise," said Chief Equipment Operator Jerry Greer, Detail Latvia's assistant officer in charge. "They will be able to roll off their ships onto improved roads all the way to base camp. The accomplishments of these Seabees is typical of our legacy, which is to pave the way for the Marines!"



(Right to left) BUCN Joseph Scott, BUCN Selina Rodriguez and OCA Corey Moore, NMCB 7, measure and secure rebar framework in a water distribution pad under construction in Naghad, Djibouti, April 28.

DJIBOUTI

NMCB 7 Builds Water Distribution Site

By MC2 Patrick Gordon, NMCB 7

Seabees from NMCB 7 completed a water distribution site in Naghad, Djibouti, in May. The Naghad Water Distribution Project is a 12 x 12-foot-square concrete pad with 40 water spigots and two watering troughs for local livestock.

"The Naghad Water Distribution Project provides a cleaner, more efficient water source to the community," said Builder 1st Class Joseph Waddell, project supervisor, NMCB 7.

"I think I speak for the entire crew when I say doing community development projects like this really feels good," said BU1 Waddell. "To be able to help a community get something as important as water more easily really means a lot."

WWII Seabee's Experiences Transcend the Generations

By EA1 (SCW/SW) Joseph P. Angelo, NMCB 14 Historian

Between belly laughs and cold beers in his living room one warm summer night in Texas, Painter 1st Class James Rothermel pauses to tell us that “the time I spent with the Seabees in World War II means the world to me.”

James Rothermel joined the Navy in 1942 as a third class petty officer and was assigned to Naval Construction Battalion (NCB) 14 being organized at Camp Allen, Va. NCB 14 eventually saw action on Saipan, Okinawa, and famously built a huge bridge entirely out of local mahogany wood while on Guadalcanal. After the war, Rothermel graduated college, became a teacher and later a principal in his hometown of Brenham, Texas.

Finding Rothermel was the highlight of many years of historical research into NCB 14 and its modern heir, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14, by the author and Senior Chief Equipment Operator (SCW/FMF) Stephen Clark. With so many WWII veterans passing away every day, it seemed unlikely that the search for its veterans would yield any results.

Now, after swapping sea stories about everything from Guadalcanal to Iraq, the years and generational differences melt away and some core themes emerge. Seabees have always worked hard, fought hard and know better than most how to accomplish goals while serving others.

Construction workers instinctively know that you must start with a strong foundation if you want to end up with an enduring structure. Jim will tell you that the Seabees gave him a strong foundation for his lifetime of public service, including his professional career and later his elected positions in the local governments of Brenham and Washington County.

Now 91 years old, Jim lives an exceptionally active lifestyle with his wife, Dorothy, whom he met shortly after the war. They have several children and many grandchildren spread out across the nation.

Jim will be traveling with Dorothy to Jacksonville, Fla., to accept a belated combat action ribbon (these did not exist in WWII), attend the regional Seabee ball and visit with current members of NMCB 14.

While on NAS Jacksonville, Jim will also visit the NMCB 14 Heritage Center to view the Japanese pistol and porcelain pottery found on Okinawa that he recently donated. The Seabees' first unit-specific archive

and display of mementos opened its doors May 2, 2009, immediately following an annual memorial service dedicated to the seven NMCB 14 Seabees who lost their lives in Iraq during 2004.

Rothermel has said that he feels much honored that Seabees today truly appreciate what he did during WWII. It is my hope that after his visit, he will understand that it is NMCB 14 that feels honored to be able to claim him as one of our own.



James and Dorothy Rothermel

NMCB 14 Heritage Center, NAS Jacksonville, Jacksonville, Fla.



Dominican Republic · Guantanamo Bay · Guatemala



NMCB 25 Builds in Central and South America



By LTJG Mark Stohl,
NMCB 25 Public Affairs

Accomplishing a wide variety of construction projects involves much more than time and materials for the Seabees. A global force for good fosters a sense of community, promotes military-to-military relationships and fights the war on drugs...

Guantanamo Bay

(Left) EO1 Christopher J. Grammer, NMCB 25, digs a foundation for a K-Span building, U.S. Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba earlier this year.
U.S. Army photo by Spc. Cody Black



Seabees from NMCB 25 assist school children with planting behind their new two-room schoolhouse in La Cocona, Guatemala. The children provided the plants to landscape the new school built by Seabees, U.S. Army units and local personnel from Guatemala as part of U.S. Southern Command's exercise Beyond The Horizon (BTH), earlier this year.

U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Trisha Houston, Texas Army National Guard

Constructing a Schoolhouse in Guatemala

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 25 are working side by side with a number of U.S. Army units and local personnel from Guatemala, making lasting connections between the two nations. Construction activities include two schools and smaller civic projects around Puerto Barrios, as part of the U.S. Southern Command's exercise Beyond The Horizon (BTH) in June.

BTH joint exercises provide training opportunities for U.S. forces to improve relations with host nations, help better the quality of life for their people and provide humanitarian assistance where it is most needed. The exercise also provides valuable opportunities for U.S. engineering personnel to learn from and train with Guatemalan experts. This experience helps the U.S. military respond rapidly in support of relief efforts anywhere in the world.

"It's really great we can come down here and build these schools, and interact with the children who will use them," said Steelworker 2nd Class Hector Parada, NMCB 25. "We can already see the difference it makes. This is why I joined the Seabees."

NMCB 25 Builds in Central and South America



Supporting FUERZAS COMANDO EXERCISE in the Dominican Republic

N MCB 25 recently helped construct and renovate the site for Fuerzas Comando 2010 in the Dominican Republic. This June event is a competition involving Special Forces troops which enhances regional cooperation, training and readiness in counter-terrorism tactics, techniques and procedures. Twenty-seven countries are expected to participate.

Seabees constructed a sniper range, upgraded a pistol range and renovated four barracks bays for Fuerzas Comando 2010. The Dominican Republic Military stood guard at all jobsites 24/7.

Special Operations Command South and U.S. Southern Command provided support for the cost of the project. The detail also received planning and coordination support from the U.S. Embassy and the Military Assistance Advisory Group.

NMCB 25 Seabees build forms for the target abutment at the sniper range for Fuerzas Comando Exercise, Dominican Republic, earlier this year.

Photo by LTJG Fernando Nacionales

Photo illustration





Furniture and remnants damaged from a fire in Timor-Leste, May 12, cover the floor of the USAID offices. Seabees from NMCB 11 later transferred salvageable belongings to a local warehouse.



UT3 Steven Hursh, NMCB 11, removes furniture from the USAID offices after a fire destroyed much of the space May 12 in Timor-Leste.

Photos by ENS Matthew Lundin

Seabees Help out USAID in Timor-Leste

By ENS Matthew Lundin, NMCB 11

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 11 provided clean-up in mid-May after a fire damaged the offices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Dili, Timor-Leste.

NMCB 11 came to the organization's aid by helping remove much of its vital electronic equipment and salvaging office equipment. Since the roof was severely damaged, the Seabees had to move fast. They mobilized rapidly and also coordinated some help from Australians who were part of the International Stabilization Force (ISF). With help from the ISF, they were able to quickly remove sensitive equipment and transport it to a local warehouse.

United Nations police also asked the Seabees for their unofficial determination of the cause of the fire. Noting that forensics wasn't one of their skills, Construction Electrician 2nd Class Darius Michael, Construction Electrician 3rd Class Joshua Murphy and Equipment Operator 3rd Class Robert Shaughnessy, NMCB 11, took a look and determined that the fire was most likely caused by faulty wiring.

"You guys [the Seabees] are life savers" said Peter Cloutier, development director, USAID, Timor-Leste. "We owe you one."



"The best single thing the U.S. has done in Timor-Leste in the recent past has been to deploy the Seabees here."

— Hans Klemm, Ambassador, U.S. Embassy, Dili

By Diane Covington

Reprinted with permission
from *Reader's Digest*, June 2009
Photos courtesy of Diane Covington

While stationed in France during World War II, an American soldier took a seven-year-old orphan under his wing. Decades later, his daughter made it her mission to locate that boy.

Finding Gilbert

Gilbert Desclos sat in the tall grass on the cliff above Omaha Beach and shivered in the sea air. The sun rose over the trees as he hugged his bony knees tight to his chest and pulled his worn wool sweater around him.

Ever since the arrival of *les Américains*, his world had changed. Overnight, a military camp had sprung to life on the empty field just below his home in Normandy. For seven-year-old Gilbert, an orphan, it was a boy's dream. His caretaker, Mrs. Bisson, had to drag him in at night.

Now he watched, wide-eyed, as jeeps roared up the road and men in white caps scurried about, emptying trucks loaded with guns, ammunition, food, and giant duffel bags. He yawned as the smell of bacon, eggs, coffee, and toast wafted up from a massive tent. He tilted his small head back, breathing in the aromas. His stomach growled.

Donald K. Johnson, a lieutenant in the Seabees, the U.S. Navy's Construction Battalion, held a clipboard and checked off the morning's accomplishments.

The infirmary tent was complete; now the medics and doctors had a decent place to treat soldiers. The showers worked.

Johnson and his men had been busy since dawn, and

it was now noon. He dismissed them, then took a moment and touched the breast pocket that held the photo of his wife and two young sons. It had been more than a year since he'd seen them.

When the lieutenant turned to go, he spied something in the tall grass on the hill. Was that a child? He waved. A small hand waved back. Johnson beckoned. There was a moment of hesitation, then the boy, barely taller

than the grass, made his way down. Johnson knelt to look into the child's thin face.

He tried out his high school French: "Comment t'appelles-tu?" The boy's sparkly blue eyes shone. "Gilbert," he said.

Johnson shook his hand. This little guy looked like he could use a good meal, and the camp had more than enough food. In his halting French, he invited Gilbert to have lunch. When the boy nodded, Johnson lifted him onto his hip, as he (Continued)



A photo taken in Normandy, my father on the far left, standing, with his battalion of sailors, part of the 111th.

Finding Gilbert

might've done with one of his own sons, and headed for the mess tent.

Inside, dozens of young soldiers ate, talked, and clanged their cutlery.

Gilbert's eyes grew wide. Johnson piled two plates high with roast beef, potatoes, carrots and peas, freshly baked bread, and apple pie.

The men at the officers table smiled and made room for the two of them.

Gilbert took small bites and, chewing slowly, ate everything on his plate.

Johnson patted his head: "Très bien!" Gilbert smiled.

After lunch, Johnson held Gilbert's hand, and they walked into the June sunlight. He knelt beside the boy and explained that he had to go back to work. Gilbert nodded and ran back up the path to the tall grass, turning around to wave.

At 1800 hours, as Johnson was again heading for the mess tent, he saw Gilbert sitting in the same spot. He motioned, and Gilbert ran to him.

Dinner was fried chicken, mashed potatoes, corn, biscuits, and chocolate cake. Johnson again filled two plates, but Gilbert didn't eat as much as he had at lunch; it was clear that the boy wasn't used to so much food. But he sat close to Johnson and smiled his shy smile, taking big breaths between bites, as if willing himself to eat as much as he could.

After dinner, Johnson knelt close to Gilbert. "Bonsoir," he said. "A demain," till tomorrow. He watched the boy walk up the path and out of sight.

A NEW FRIEND

From that day on, Gilbert ate with Johnson, three meals a day, soon filling out from all the rich food. The other soldiers didn't mind; in fact, the boy helped ease their homesickness. Gilbert giggled when Johnson carried him around on his shoulders and soon began riding along in the jeep down to the beach, where Johnson supervised the unloading of ships. When Johnson oversaw construction projects in the camp, Gilbert tagged along. If Johnson left camp with his crew to rebuild a road or a blown-out bridge, Gilbert waited for his return.

As the summer of 1944 passed, Johnson's French improved, and Gilbert learned to say hello, goodbye, thank you, jeep, ship, and ice cream. He could also say Lieutenant Johnson.

In mid-October, when Johnson received orders to leave France, he drove to the local authorities in Caen to make some inquiries. He discovered that Gilbert had been abandoned at birth and had no living relatives. But when he asked if he could adopt him, the answer was firm: no.

MY FATHER

Lieutenant Johnson was my father. Stories about the young boy and wartime France were an element of my childhood, as constant as the roar of Dad's motorcycle as he rolled in each evening at 5:45 after his commute from San Diego, where he worked as a civil engineer for the Navy.

At 6 p.m. sharp, my family gathered around the yellow Formica table that took up most of our small kitchen. Dad and Mom sat on each end, my sister across from me, our older brothers next to us.

Dad looked straitlaced in his short-sleeved white shirt, skinny tie, and plastic pocket liner holding a pen, a notebook, and sometimes a slide rule.

But his eyes told you he was kind, funny, a bit mischievous. His stories made me laugh, and when he described his time in France, I could picture it all: the French countryside, the huge Navy ships, and Gilbert Desclos.

Dad always said Gilbert's name with a kind of reverence and the way the French would, with a soft g sound.

I knew he had tried to adopt Gilbert and bring him home. I thought about that sometimes, wondering what it would have been like to have another older brother at the dinner table.

As I grew up, Dad's stories seemed to belong more and more to my childhood, put away with my dolls and coloring books. After I married and had my own family, Dad visited Europe again, stopping in Paris. He told me how he tried to find Gilbert's name in the phone book but couldn't. I remember how his shoulders slumped and his head hung down as he told me about his failure.

In my father's old age, when he could no longer walk and had lost his eyesight, I would sit with him as he talked about his



My sister Sharon (left) and I with my father just before he left for the Korean War, 1951.

life. When he spoke about France, his eyes shone. They glistened with tears when he mentioned Gilbert, pronouncing his name with that special softness. I stroked his fragile hand, wishing there were something I could do.

SEARCHING FOR THE PAST

After Dad died, in 1991, I wanted to learn more about World War II. I traveled to France in 1993 to tour the beaches and write about the 50th anniversary of the D-day invasion. I stood on the cliffs above Omaha Beach, now the site of the American cemetery where nearly 10,000 U.S. soldiers are buried. The air stung my face as I wiped away tears, remembering Dad, wishing I could ask him more questions.

In my article for my local California newspaper, I mentioned Gilbert Desclos. The press attaché at the French consulate in San Francisco read the story and contacted me. Learning that I was going back to Normandy to accept a medal in Dad's honor, she insisted I try to find Gilbert: "The French don't move around as Americans do. He's probably still nearby."

After the medal ceremony, I placed an ad in the local paper. Thinking it would take months, if not years, to find Gilbert, I listed my address in California, then left on a tour around France with Heather, my teenage daughter.

The next morning, Gilbert Desclos, reading his newspaper, wept when he saw my father's name. He called the paper and learned I'd left the area, so he wrote to my home address. My sister, collecting my mail, recognized the name, ran to a friend's, and faxed it back to France. I received it the night before Heather and I were to travel back to Paris and then home.

I called Gilbert and, stammering through my emotions, arranged a place to meet him that evening. As my daughter and I sat at a sidewalk café in Caen, waiting for Gilbert and his wife to arrive, I fidgeted in my metal chair, watching the passing faces. Could I possibly be meeting the boy from my childhood stories? And how would I know him?

Then a trim, well-dressed man walked up, smiled, and said my name. When I looked into his eyes, I saw the same expression of kindness that Dad always had; Gilbert actually resembled Dad somehow.

At his home, after dinner, Gilbert uncorked a dusty bottle of Calvados. As we sipped the apple brandy and talked, I realized that all the years of studying French vocabulary and irregular verbs had prepared me for this moment.

He asked questions about Dad, about our lives, about how Dad had died. He told me how he'd struggled after Dad left France, living in an orphanage, lonely and sad – but that in his teens, a sweet woman had brought him to live with her family. Nourished by

those years of love and caring, he went on to join the military, find a good job, and marry his wife, Huguette. Together, they raised their daughter, Cathy.

But he had never forgotten Dad. He had always insisted to Huguette, Cathy, and later his two grandsons that he had a family in America who would come and find him one day.

I told him that Dad had never forgotten him either – that he had talked about him for the rest of his life, even at the end. I could tell that meant everything to Gilbert.

He told me the same stories my father had told, but from a child's perspective: his fascination with the military camp, the delicious food, Dad's gentleness. Remembering the lieutenant's arms around him, he wept again. We sat together, silent and moved, missing the father who had loved us both.

WHEN GILBERT SAID GOODBYE

Gilbert took a gulp of his Calvados and told me his version of the October day in 1944 when he and Dad said goodbye on Omaha Beach.

Dad held him close. Gilbert hung on tight, burying his head in Dad's thick, wool Navy coat. Cold October winds whipped the sand around them as men rushed by, carrying their heavy seabags on their shoulders, excited to be going home.

(Continued)



A photo taken in 1966 at an all-day celebration when I traveled back to France with my mother, my daughter Heather and sister Sharon. The whole village, including the mayor, came out and we got our pictures in the paper. From left, Heather, Diane, Sharon, Gilbert, Bonnye (Diane's mother), Huguette (Gilbert's wife), their daughter Cathy and her sons Romain and Benoit wearing American T-shirts that we brought for them.

Finding Gilbert

"Do you want to come with me to America?" Dad asked.

"Oui," Gilbert murmured.

They boarded the ship. The captain, who'd been watching, shook his head.

"Johnson, off the record, if you're caught, I know nothing about this." Dad nodded, shifting Gilbert's weight on his hip.

But within the hour, a storm raged. Twenty-foot waves lashed the hull of the ship. There was no way the boat could cross the English Channel until the storm had subsided.

As the sun set, the wind slackened and sailors prepared for departure.

Moments before the ship was to sail, French gendarmes pulled up on the beach, demanding to speak with the captain; a Mrs. Bisson had reported that her ward had not returned home, and they were looking for him.

As Gilbert remembers it, the captain called for Lieutenant Johnson. There was a long, strained pause. The lieutenant appeared at the top of the gangplank, holding Gilbert in his arms. Gilbert sobbed and clung to him.

"Non!" he wailed. "Non!" The gendarmes had to pull him away. The ship sailed without the boy, whom Mrs. Bisson placed in an orphanage the same day.

WAITING FOR THE NEWS

Gilbert put the cork in the Calvados bottle. "Your father said he would come back for me. I have been waiting 50 years for some word from him."

We sat in awkward silence until Gilbert's daughter asked, "Why didn't he?"

Why didn't he come back?"

I couldn't think of what to say in English, let alone French. Then Cathy said softly, "Le destin." It was Gilbert's destiny to stay in France and have his family and his life there.

As we said goodnight, Gilbert took my hand. "I always knew that I would hear from your father, that someone would come," he said. "Thank you."

I didn't sleep that night, picturing the goodbye on that desolate beach, imagining the police pulling a part of Dad's heart

away. And how – why – had Dad carried that secret for the rest of his life? Was he ashamed that he hadn't fulfilled his promise? And why hadn't I helped Dad find Gilbert before he died?

As the clock ticked on the bedside table, I realized I would not find answers from the past. But we could go forward from here.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

For the next two years, Gilbert and I wrote, phoned, and e-mailed. In 1996, my mother, my sister, Heather, and I traveled to France for a celebration that received coverage in the same newspaper I'd used to find Gilbert.

A year later, the Desclos family came to America, welcomed by 40 members of the Johnson clan, spanning four generations.

At dinner one night, Gilbert read aloud a letter he'd written for the occasion, as I translated into English. He shared memories of my father and told us what it meant to finally come to America. It was a dream, he said, that he had thought would remain a dream.

Other relatives and I returned to France several times through the years.

Then, a few months before my planned visit last January, Gilbert was diagnosed with liver cancer. He died four days before my arrival.

I made it in time for his funeral. In his tiny village in Normandy, bells tolled as relatives and friends braved the cold to fill the church. The tricolor French flag draped his coffin, carried by an honor guard of fellow veterans.

I sat with Gilbert's family in the front pew and listened to the tributes to his life. During the service, the priest asked me to place on the coffin a photo of my father and one of Gilbert from 1944 together in one frame.

As candlelight flickered on the faces in the photographs and music echoed off the walls of the old church, I realized that Cathy was right: It was *le destin* that the naval officer and the little boy had found each other and destiny that they'd gone their separate ways. But it was also destiny, I knew now, that had brought them back together.



Diane Covington near her home in Nevada City.
Photo by Erik Butler for Reader's Digest

VADM Loose Retires After 34-year Career

VADM Mike Loose retired April 23 after most recently serving as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics. VADM Loose, a Seabee combat warfare officer, professional engineer and member of the acquisition professional community, commanded the Naval Facilities Engineering Command from 2003 to 2006. At right, Chief of Naval Operations ADM Gary Roughead (left) looks on as Loose officially retires after 34 years of Navy service.

U.S. Navy photo by Mason Lowery, NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs and Communications



Naval Facilities Engineering Command Gets New Leader

RADM C.J. Mossey Assumes Helm as 42nd Chief of Civil Engineers

By Brienne Lang,
NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs and Communications

RADM C.J. Mossey, CEC, relieved RADM Greg Shear, CEC, as Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and Chief of Civil Engineers in a change of command ceremony held at the Washington Navy Yard, May 21.

Chief of Naval Operations ADM Gary Roughead presented RADM Shear with the Distinguished Service Medal for his “exemplary leadership of NAVFAC and 31 years of honorable and dedicated service.” Shear assumed command of NAVFAC in October 2006, after assignments as director, Shore Readiness Division (N46), and deputy commander, Navy Installations Command. Roughead also awarded Marlene Shear the Meritorious Public Service Award.

In his farewell remarks, Shear said that after seeing the United States through the eyes of the world, “I never again took for granted wearing the uniform of the U.S. Navy, with the U.S. Flag on my sleeve and a Seabee on my pocket. No one else can do what our Navy does, what you do!

“Serving NAVFAC, the Seabees and the CEC has been a treasure – to hold for a time, and then pass on,” Shear said. “And if there is a stronger tie outside of blood or marriage than a Seabee family, I don’t know about it.”

RADM Mossey previously served as vice commander of Navy Installations Command and director, Shore Readiness Division (N46) on the Chief of Naval Operations’ staff. As NAVFAC’s new commander, Mossey will lead nearly 2,000 active and reserve Civil Engineer Corps officers and approximately 20,000 civil servants and contractors.

RADM C.J. Mossey addresses the audience during NAVFAC’s change of command ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard, May 21, where he relieved RADM Greg Shear as NAVFAC Commander and Chief of Civil Engineers.

Photo by MCC(SCW/EXW/SW/AW/SG) James G. Pinsky



Battle “E” Awards

RADM Mark Handley, Commander, First Naval Construction Division, announced the recipients of the Battle Efficiency “E” Battalions for accomplishments achieved in FY09. The Battle E recognizes superb performance of the

Naval Construction Force (NCF) in meeting the elevated demands of today’s operational environment, for both active and reserve component units.

Atlantic Fleet

NMCB 7 (Active) – Throughout a demanding combat deployment to more than eight locations in four countries, the “Magnificent 7” provided high-quality engineering support, completing more than 53,000 man-days of construction on 74 projects in support of the First Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), the NATO International Security Assistance Force, four special operations task forces and other special operations commands. In addition, the ‘Bees closed down operations in Iraq while embarking the battalion’s material, equipment and personnel to Afghanistan. This complex mid-deployment “lift and shift” included the largest tactical airlift movement in NCF history.

NMCB 24 (Reserve) – Whether deployed overseas to Iraq or Kuwait, the Seabees of the “Double Dozen” battalion set the standard in safety, quality of work and accountability for others to follow. NMCB 24 completed more than 133,000 man-days on 40 high-visibility construction projects and traversed 22,000+ miles with CSE teams. One key effort was the quick response to the “lift and shift” redeployment of the table of allowance from Iraq to Afghanistan, a “Can Do” effort in challenging times.

Pacific Fleet

NMCB 5 (Active) – Despite an abbreviated homeport, the “Professionals” raised the bar through execution of an extremely aggressive unit training plan to ensure optimal readiness for deployment to CENTCOM. The battalion was the first NMCB to deploy as a unit to Afghanistan, and proved vital to the success of one of the largest U.S. Marine Corps offensives in recent history. This effort helped establish numerous forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan in support of both the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade and Commander Joint Special Operations Task Force – Afghanistan.

NMCB 25 (Reserve) – NMCB 25 Seabees executed its unit readiness training plan prior to the successful launch of a new reserve detachment site in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The battalion’s training plan included two internal mount-out exercises, a graded mount-out exercise and two four-day field training exercises. The men and women of the “Spades and Clubs” battalion also manned two consecutive 85-person detachments to deploy to the U.S. Southern Command to provide construction support for Phase Zero operations.

NMCB 1 Seabees Receive Philippine Humanitarian Award

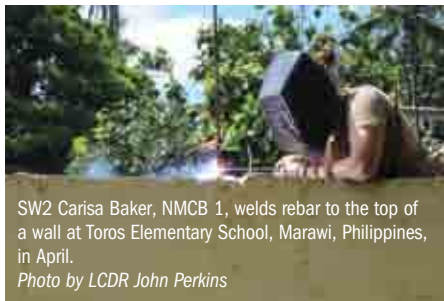
By PO2 Joshua Scott, Joint Special Operations Task Force – Philippines (JSOTF-P)

Armed with hammers and hardhats, a group of Seabees has been working with the Philippine military and local communities to help battle terrorism by building peace and ensuring prosperity.

Honoring their work over the past 10 months, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Lt. Gen. Ben Dolorfino, commander, Western Mindanao Command, presented the Philippine Military Civic Action Medal to the Seabees of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 detachment Philippines during an award ceremony, May 13.

Lt. Gen. Dolorfino believes the military has more than a combat role, and that it can be a key factor in the peace process in Mindanao.

“Today’s soldier should be someone who is not only a warrior but a peace build-



SW2 Carisa Baker, NMCB 1, welds rebar to the top of a wall at Toros Elementary School, Marawi, Philippines, in April.

Photo by LCDR John Perkins

er, conflict manager, environmentalist, diplomat, and information and economic development expert rolled into one,” Dolorfino said.

The award highlights the combined humanitarian projects conducted by the Sailors, through a partnership with the AFP and skilled local workers. These projects improve the lives of hundreds

of Filipinos, helping to reduce support for lawless groups and their safe havens in the southern Philippines.

“These Sailors have worked hard for 10 months,” said CAPT Nathan Knowles, NMCB 1 officer in charge. “Helping to accomplish the JSOTF-P mission of reducing strongholds, by improving the local communities through civil military operations and humanitarian assistance construction projects, increases the opportunities and the livelihoods of the local community.”

Their projects, ranging from construction of elementary schools and colleges to building water distribution systems throughout Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao, have received a universally positive response from the communities they’ve helped.

Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin G. Shields Award

Utilitiesman 1st Class

William H. Allen, NMCB 5

By NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs and Communications



UT1 William H. Allen

While deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, UT1 William Allen, NMCB 5, was responsible for ensuring that more than 3,300 man-days of trouble and emergency service calls were completed at a substantial cost

savings. Hand selected to execute a force-enabling mission to Meyemanah, Afghanistan, UT1 Allen deployed alone to this remote location in support of the special operating forces mission and provided oversight to contractor-provided construction services. In this multi-national environment, Allen procured land to construct the Meyemanah forward operating base (FOB), and negotiate multiple lease agreements. He also planned, coordinated and executed construction at three FOBs while supervising 32 local nationals.

In homeport, Allen led an aggressive physical fitness and training program for Bravo Company with the following results: 25 percent increase in PFA scores and a record-setting zero PFA failure rate for Bravo Company; 100 percent reenlistment and retention rate; 15 SCW classes, trained 120+ Seabees; and mentored hundreds of junior battalion members.

This award is presented for outstanding technical and leadership ability, and is given in honor of Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Marvin Shields, a 26-year-old Seabee serving in Vietnam with NMCB 11 in 1965. Shields' unit, along with Army Special Forces and South Vietnam Defense personnel, came under attack by 2,000 Viet Cong and, although greatly outnumbered, withstood intense close-range combat for almost three hours. Shields and an Army lieutenant volunteered to man a rocket launcher, destroying an enemy machine gun position. Despite repeatedly being hit, Shields fought on until he was mortally wounded; he died the following day while being evacuated by helicopter. For these heroic actions that cost him his life, he was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor – becoming the first (and so far only) Seabee to win the nation's highest award, and also the first Navy man to be so decorated for action in Vietnam.

Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert D. Stethem Award

Chief Construction Mechanic

(SCW) David B. Akins, NMCB 74

By MC1 Ryan Wilbur, NMCB 74



CMC(SCW) David Akins

CMC (SCW) David Akins, NMCB 74, Alfa Company, received the SW2 (DV) Robert D. Stethem Award for his exceptional work ethic and leadership in both homeport and contingency

environments. "It is definitely an honor," said CMC Akins. "I know a few of the past Stethem Award winners, and to be put into the same category as one of these guys is a big honor."

In Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Akins' performance with the Gypsum Road Project was a highlight of the battalion's recent deployment. As one of the few projects outside the wire, it was critical to the mission for the Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

"It was a very successful detail, with high visibility," said CDR Bruce Nevel, commanding officer, NMCB 74.

Akins joined the Navy just out of high school. Now married with six children, he has served in the Seabees for almost 17 years. "I've always seemed to have a Seabee mindset without [even] knowing what a Seabee was," Akins said. "I kind of grew up with that "can do," get it done, fix it, make it work kind of attitude.

"I'm definitely glad I chose the way I went. I've had a tremendous amount of fun and good experiences since I've been in the Seabees," he added.

Named for Steelworker 2nd Class (DV) Robert Dean Stethem, the award recognizes outstanding individual moral courage in support of the traditions of the Seabees while in the course of actual operations. Petty Officer Stethem was a victim of the hijacking of TWA Flight 847 in June 1985, after being singled out from passengers as a U.S. Navy Sailor and killed by members of the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah when their demands to release 766 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel were not met. He was returning home with fellow members of UCT 1 after completing a routine assignment in Greece. Stethem was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star.

RADM Lewis B. Combs Award

LT Christopher B. Allen, CEC, USN

NAVFAC Mid-Atlantic

By NAVFAC HQ Public Affairs and Communications



LT Christopher B. Allen, CEC, USN

In the Fallujah resident office, Multi-national Force Iraq, LT Christopher Allen, deputy officer in charge, international zone resident office and officer in charge, successfully managed an average workload of 38 projects valued in excess of \$150M, with a construction work-in-place of \$137K per day. This rate of placement was achieved as LT Allen operated daily in the more dangerous areas in Iraq and Al Anbar province around the city of Fallujah. Executing more than 50 missions outside the wire he maintained steady project execution despite enemy fire and significant security, labor and technical issues.

His leadership and expert management of complex relationships among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of State, Multi-national Security Transition Command Iraq and the Iraqi government were key to the success of multiple high-visibility construction projects. Allen's personal initiative, inspirational leadership and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

"Receiving this award is an honor, but the true honor was having the privilege to serve with a real hero, CDR Duane Wolfe – a great leader of impeccable character with a passion for his people," Allen said. "Let us honor his sacrifice, and that of others like him, by never forgetting them and their example – no matter how painful the memories of their loss."

This award is named in honor of RADM Lewis B. Combs and is presented to an individual who has made the most outstanding contribution in perpetuating the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps. Combs served as chief deputy to Admiral Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees, and helped create the "fighter builders" and the Civil Engineer Corps. He was active with the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association from its inception in 1970, first as Chairman of the Board of Directors and later as Chairman Emeritus, until his death at age 101.

Presidential Retreat Camp David: Historically Unique Duty Station

By MC1 Jim Williams, Camp David – Naval Support Facility Thurmont

For a unique tour, Presidential Support Duty at Camp David may be just the spot. Camp David's team of dedicated, hand-picked Navy professionals provides world-class service to the President at this highly unique duty station.

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Performing a vital mission in direct support of the Commander in Chief, Camp David offers unparalleled technical training opportunities for Navy personnel, and one-of-a-kind experiences found nowhere else within the Department of Defense. It is always searching for top-performing, highly motivated Sailors. To work at Camp David under the White House Military Office, all Sailors must pass an extensive background check and be granted a White House security clearance. Anyone interested should contact Camp David 12-18 months before your PRD since the screening process can be lengthy.



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Seabee Special Programs
Detailer at 901-874-
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Arriving at Naval Support Facility Thurmont (Camp David), Maryland.

FOCUS

Navy Program Cuts Stress for Military Families

By Judith Snyderman, American Forces Press Service

Washington, D.C. – A program that started three years ago to help Navy and Marine Corps families cope with stress from multiple deployments and other types of pressure has proven so successful it has become a model for the Defense Department.

Kirsten Woodward directs family programs at the Bureau of Navy Medicine and Surgery. She developed the multifaceted approach in partnership with the UCLA Health Services Research Center in 2007.

During a “DoD Live” bloggers roundtable, Woodward said a gap existed in the past between family social service programs and medical mental health care services.

“There really wasn’t anything in the middle, addressing both prevention and intervention,” she said.

The program Woodward created – called **FOCUS**, short for Families Overcoming Under Stress – aims to fill that gap. The licensed clinical social worker said the goal is to offer practical help in situations where symptoms may be mild, acute or anywhere in between, and it aims to remove the stigma from seeking assistance.

FOCUS uses a color code to help families pinpoint current stress levels. Woodward explained the colors range from “green being ‘good to go’ and through the continuum to red being ‘hot’ or ‘not good to go.’”

That baseline, she said, guides the entry tier of service best suited for clients. Woodward said the tiers range from education and guidance on stress prevention to skills-based peer learning groups geared to children, adolescents and adults.

The “bull’s eye,” or most intense treatment, she said, is multi-session resilience training. That course runs from eight to 10 weeks.

So far, about 97,000 people have tried it out at 10 Marine Corps and eight Navy locations. The staff at each site includes psychologists, social workers, licensed marriage family therapists and resilience trainers.

A year ago, Woodward said, the officials at the Pentagon’s military community and family policy office independently reviewed the program and cited it as a best-practice program. As a result, plans are underway to expand FOCUS to other branches of the military. So far, four Air Force and four Army locations are running pilot programs.



NMCB 133-built Greenhouse Educates Gulfport Students

Seabees from Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133 built a 24' x 50' greenhouse for the kids at Bayou View Middle School, Gulfport, Miss., earlier this year. The greenhouse is used to teach students how to grow plants and help support the school's science department.
Photo by MCC Ryan Delcore



CBMU 202 Seabees Rebuild Together in Nation's Capital

By MC2(EXW/AW) Jesse Awalt, Naval District Washington
 Seabees took their construction and maintenance expertise to northeast Washington, D.C.'s eighth ward in April to improve a resident's quality of life.

Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit (CBMU) 202, Detachment Washington, worked with community service partners Rebuilding Together and Covenant House to improve the home of local resident Renee Phifer. "Right now, when she runs the A/C unit she cannot plug in anything without interruption [of electric current]," said Engineering Aide 2nd Class Sean Barezi, CBMU 202 volunteer project coordinator for Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland. "With a 100-amp panel, she will now be able to hook up everything in her house without any interruption."

In addition to increasing her electric power, Seabees completed several other home upgrades and repairs, including fixing numerous exposed electrical wires behind the walls of the home – a serious fire hazard.

Their work on homes like Phifer's can have a lasting impact on the community and helps foster a positive image of Seabees in the eyes of local residents.

"We want to show people that we don't just stay on base doing military work," said EA2 Barezi. "We can actually come here and share our skills. We can do something to help people out."

EA Randy Stump (left), CBMU 202, cuts plywood during a community service project in northeast Washington, D.C.'s eighth ward earlier this year.

Photo by MC2(EXW/AW) Jesse Awalt

Triathlete Says Seabee Saved His Life After Camarillo Hit-and-Run

By Adam Foxman, Staff Writer, Ventura County Star

Chief Petty Officer Thomas Sanchez was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan when his training for the battlefield helped him save a life at home.

Sanchez was heading home to Camarillo from Naval Base Ventura County [Calif.] on March 23 when he found Jordan Rapp, a professional triathlete, lying in a pool of blood. Authorities said a driver had collided with the bicyclist near CSU Channel Islands, then apparently left him for dead. First aid administered by Sanchez, a Navy Seabee, likely helped save his life, authorities said.

Rapp and his family agree, and when Sanchez stopped by the hospital Monday, they had a chance to thank him one more time before he leaves for the war zone.

"He's a wonderful human being," Rapp's mother, Diane Rapp, said of Sanchez. "I just feel like he's going to be a part of our family forever."

Six days after the crash, Rapp, 29, of Thousand Oaks was still awaiting surgery for some of his injuries, but he was sitting up in his bed at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard and plotting his return to racing as relatives watched over him.

The reigning champion of Ironman Canada and Ironman Arizona, Rapp was training for a half-Ironman distance triathlon

in Oceanside. He started the day with a 2.5-mile swim and 30-minute run near his home, then headed out for a bike ride along Lewis Road, he said. He had ridden the route many times before and felt it was safe.

The last thing he remembers before the crash is riding his time-trial bike on the last high-speed interval of his workout, he said. His memories pick up two days later when medical personnel were removing a breathing tube.

According to the California Highway Patrol, Rapp was heading north on Lewis near University Drive about 5:45 p.m. when a driver made a left turn from Lewis directly in front of him. Rapp was thrown to the ground after he hit the left side of the vehicle and shattered a window, officials said. The driver fled the scene.

Sanchez was driving home when he saw a vehicle stopped on Lewis, he said. As he drove up, bystanders asked if he knew first aid.

Sanchez saw Rapp lying face down with a pool of blood around his head, apparently unconscious, he said. Some bystanders were calling 911, but medical personnel hadn't arrived yet and no one was tending to Rapp, so Sanchez went into action.

Trying to avoid moving the injured man, Sanchez looked under Rapp's body and saw an open wound on his neck. Working with gauze from a combat vest he had in his car, the 16-year Navy veteran applied pressure to stop



Chief Petty Officer Thomas Sanchez and Jordan Rapp, St. John's Regional Medical Center, Oxnard, Calif., in March.

Photo by Adam Foxman

the bleeding until paramedics arrived, he said.

While he has seen combat during two tours of Iraq over the past four years, he had never before been the first responder to such a serious incident. Sanchez downplayed his involvement, however, saying he just did what he could to help. He credited paramedics and doctors with saving Rapp's life.

"I just happened to be there to, you know, apply some first aid," he said. "Those guys are the ones who saved his life."

Rapp, his family and CHP officers, however, said Sanchez played a key role. In addition to numerous injuries to his face and shoulder, Rapp had two jugular veins severed by glass from the vehicle and had lost more than two liters of blood, he said. "I am alive today because Chief Petty Officer Sanchez did all the right things," Rapp said.

Ventura CHP Officer Frank Paramo said Sanchez's slowing of Rapp's bleeding "gave him enough time, based upon my experience, to get to the hospital and survive."

CHP investigators tracked down leads that led them to a suspect. Investigators knew a nearby berry ranch let workers out between 5 and 6 p.m., so they asked if anyone had called in sick the next day, Paramo said. After getting information about the one absent employee out of 160, CHP officials put out a bulletin about his van. Oxnard police found it, and evidence including Rapp's blood confirmed it was involved in the hit-and-run, Paramo said.

Investigators now believe the driver, Marco Garcia-Ortiz, 27, might have fled to Mexico.

Rapp praised the CHP and hopes the suspect is brought to justice. More importantly, he wants the incident to raise drivers' awareness about the need to be careful around bicyclists.

Sanchez stopped by the hospital several times to see Rapp while making final preparations to leave for Afghanistan. The first time, Sanchez offered Rapp's mother a handshake — and she gave him a hug instead.

"What can a mother say when you meet the man who saved your son's life? It's pretty overwhelming," said Diane Rapp, who traveled from New York state to be with her son after his injury. "I was just so grateful he was there and he knew what to do and he wasn't afraid to act."

Reprinted with permission from Ventura County Star, March 29, 2010

Gulfport Community Enjoys Seabee Day

Children visit a static display of an M-134D Gatling Gun during Seabee Day at NCBC, Gulfport, Miss., May 8. Seabee Day is an annual event celebrating the Navy Seabees and allows the community to learn more about the Naval Construction Force.

Photo by MC1(SCW) Demetrius Kennon



2010 SEABEE REUNIONS

SEPTEMBER

SEPT 8-12

NMCB 11, NCB 11
Niagara Falls, NY
Larry Hagler
512-268-8873
Mcb11.reunion@earthlink.net

SEPT 9-12

63rd NCB
Nashville, TN
John Newman
901-873-3279

SEPT 10-12

CBMU 301,
302nd NCB (WWII)
Seattle, WA
Dave Schill
609-410-5969

SEPT 12-16

Seabee Teams
0301-0306,
NMCB 3
Las Vegas, NV
George Fowler
972-874-7308
gefnbkf@aol.com

SEPT 12-16

72nd NCB
Charleston, SC
Robert Adams
859-384-8905
silverscreen@fuse.net

SEPT 16-19

NMCB 3
Kansas City, MO
Lee Shotwell
956-283-8750
leeshotwell@hotmail.com

SEPT 17-19

62nd NCB (WWII)
Davenport, IA
Joe Johansen
303-949-3944

SEPT 23-26

NMCB 7
Charleston, SC
Dennis Blaisdell
419-867-9371

SEPT 24-26

NMCBs 12, 13, 19,
27; CBMU 202,
CBC, CBU 408,
21st NCR, 7TH NCB
Westport, MA
Bill Napert Jr.
508-672-2737
bnapert@aol.com

OCTOBER

OCT 14

NMCB 4
Omaha, NE
Dean Jaeger
402-499-5289
kjaeg@aol.com

OCT 2

NMCB 16
Fountain Valley, CA
Al Hegney
909-627-3461
hegneyhouse@hotmail.com

OCT 3-6

33rd NCB (WWII)
Newport, RI
Mrs. Paula Ogden
401-722-5208

OCT 8-12

NMCBs 1, 9
Saint Charles, MO
Peter Dowd
781-837-0393
Mcb1reunion@verizon.net

OCT 12-15

NMCB 62, PWD
Edzell/Scotland
Gulfport, MS
Norm Hahn
715-834-4780
nhahnjr@sbc-global.net

All Seabee Reunion
Gulfport, MS
UTCS Robert P. Smith
228-424-1185
allseabeereunion@cablone.net

OCT 12-16

NMCB 71, 71st NCB
Gulfport, MS
Jerry Montecupo
412-373-3096
jmontecupo@verizon.net

OCT 13-18

NMCB 12,
302nd NCB (Vietnam)
Gulfport, MS
Bob Williams
802-228-8672
Mcb12nam@tds.net

OCT 15-17

43rd NCB
Salem, VA
Tony Percoco
845-647-6092
tvtoursinc@yahoo.com

OCT 20-23

NMCB 8
Branson, MO
Ronald Sabbatis
831-359-0073

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OR THE SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION AT WWW.SEABEEHF.ORG.**

Being a Reservist in Today's Navy... a "Weekend Warrior" No More

By RDML Scott Weikert, CEC, USNR
Deputy Commander, FIRST Naval Construction Division



RDML Scott Weikert,
CEC, USN

When not on duty as a reserve component officer, I work with private sector employers across many business sectors and live in a community that gets very little exposure to military personnel. From my perspective, most of the general population remains all but untouched and unaware of the sacrifice our all-volunteer military and their families are making around the world. When my military service comes up in discussion, I still hear the phrase "weekend warrior" used to relate to my service by people with and without prior military experience. There appears to be little understanding of how the active and reserve components have evolved into an integrated force, and what that implies.

Let me shed some light on this subject.

Long before the term Operational Reserve came into vogue, the Naval Construction Force (NCF) utilized its Reserve Component (RC) to increase capacity and enhance capabilities to meet the growing demand for Seabees around the globe. During the 1990s, the RC NCF was used extensively to perform construction for shore installations throughout CONUS and the Caribbean when funding for repairs and alterations were limited. Alignment of active component (AC) training requirements across RC forces developed into the four-year training plan that further evolved into the current Fleet Readiness Training Plan (FRTP) where AC and RC training requirements for NCF forces are identical.

Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, RC NCF units have deployed continuously on a rotational basis to Iraq and Afghanistan with RC regiments and battalions deploying more than once every four years. Prior to deployment, AC and RC units are certified to the same criteria by Second/Third Fleets as either Major Combat Operations capable or Maritime Security Operations capable. The average RC Seabee has deployed once every 3.4 years and the average RC Civil Engineers Corps (CEC) officer has deployed once every 3.2 years since 2003.

In addition, hundreds of RC Seabees and CEC officers have deployed as Individual Augmentees (IAs) augmenting joint staffs, serving as engineers and contracting officers with the USMC and Army Corps of Engineers throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, and serving as engineers with Provincial Reconstruction Teams. RC Seabees have also deployed with Amphibious Construction Battalions, Navy Cargo Handling Battalions, Special Warfare Support Groups, Customs Units and Detainee Guard Battalions.

This level of integrated reserve support requires a commitment that far exceeds the "cold war" paradigm of the "weekend warrior." Despite our progress in active and reserve integration, there is still much to do. There is a multitude of policies that needs revision to fully leverage RC capabilities. If our nation is going to continue mobilizing RC personnel to meet ongoing operational requirements, we need to redouble our engagement with the general public and employers to clearly convey the contributions of the Navy Reserve and the expectations that come with an integrated active and reserve force.

Meanwhile, it is clear to me that today's Reservist is the complete patriot sharing civil and military duties with America, his family and his countrymen with a professionalism far beyond his predecessors. Our task is daunting. Our goals are attainable and our will is just. Now more than ever before, being a Reservist in today's Navy matters to America, and I am proud to serve beside you all.

... today's Reservist is the complete patriot sharing civil and military duties with America, his family and his countrymen with a professionalism far beyond his predecessors.

BEE CAM



Honoring a Seabee Matriarch

BU3 Daniel Brown (far right) and CE3 Richard Dunaway, NMCB 11, lay a wreath at the grave of Vicenta Chargualaf Peredo, also known as "Seabee Betty," at a memorial service at Guam Veterans Cemetery, Piti, Guam, June 21.

U.S. Navy photo by Jesse Leon Guerrero